

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 743
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to designate January 2006, as "Glaucoma Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, glaucoma affects more than 2.2 million Americans age 40 and older, including 45,000 individuals in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, glaucoma is indicative of tragic health disparities, affecting African-Americans six to eight times more frequently than Caucasians; and

WHEREAS, Latinos and women are also disproportionately affected by glaucoma in younger age groups than other populations; and

WHEREAS, glaucoma affects increasing numbers of older people across all races and ethnicities, reducing the quality of life for people in their golden years; and

WHEREAS, glaucoma causes people to lose their peripheral sight, oftentimes without the affected individual knowing it, and consequently only half of all people with glaucoma are aware of their condition; and

WHEREAS, because of the furtive nature of how glaucoma progresses, it is commonly called the "Sneak Thief of Sight"; and

WHEREAS, most cases of glaucoma can be controlled, and vision loss can be slowed or halted when the disease is identified and treated; and

WHEREAS, when glaucoma is undetected, lost sight cannot be restored; and

WHEREAS, glaucoma runs in the family, yet few people know to have regular dilated eye examinations if they are at higher risk via their family history; and

WHEREAS, Prevent Blindness America, the nation's leading voluntary health organization dedicated to saving sight and preventing blindness, in partnership with Prevent Blindness Tennessee, seeks to educate the citizens of Tennessee at large, and especially

people in communities of higher risk, about the dangers of glaucoma and the importance of regular eye examinations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate January 2006 as "Glaucoma Awareness Month" in Tennessee and urge all Tennesseans to submit to a dilated eye examination to detect glaucoma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we honor and commend the good people of Prevent Blindness Tennessee for their dedicated efforts in fighting vision loss through free vision screenings, public and professional education, community and patient services, programs, referrals, information, and research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.